

ABSTRACT

WA-V-221

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 121(125)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 121(125) marks Mason and Dixon's 121st horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in fair condition, unaltered; stands only about 1 foot above ground but is firmly in place at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. WA-V-221

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)  
HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 121st Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 121 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 125)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off east side of Weller Road/T-691

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MD: 6 / P: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)  
COURTHOUSE, LIBER #:  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-V-221 entered 2/24/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 121(125) marks Mason and Dixon's 121st horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fair condition, unaltered, and remains at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here <sup>sparsely settled,</sup> is <sup>comparatively level/farmed</sup> bottomland following the winding Licking Creek, but flanked by a myriad of wooded hills, ridges and mountains. (Elbow Ridge to the <sup>south and</sup> east; Keefer Mountain to the north). The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Warren Township of Franklin County, PA; about 6 miles east-northeast of the town of Hancock, MD; at a point about 5500 feet due east of Weller Road/T-691 (about 2000 feet northeast of the McAllister farmhouse), and about 1000 feet west of Licking Creek (though inaccessible from that side). It is at the south edge of a farmed field, in a <sup>about 250 feet east of a north-south fence cornerpost;</sup> fencerow berm, <sup>about 2 feet north of a new barbed wire east-west fence between</sup> the field <sup>on the north</sup> and a finger of deciduous woods on the south. <sup>is inconspicuous,</sup> it <sup>cannot be seen from</sup> any road, farm service lane, or the old east-west wagon trail <sup>a short distance</sup> to the south, and is not easily spotted when closeby.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and originally measuring about 12 inches square by about 4 or more feet in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902 presumably to stand about 1½ feet high, it now stands only about 1 foot above ground level but continues to measure about 12 inches square. Both letters are distinct and their circle panels discernible; most fluting remains but only bits of margins; all edges and top corners are chipped, and a big chunk has been knocked out of the top northwest corner; all surfaces are very weathered, darkened as though in the floodplain, and mottled with lichen.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary		
				surveying		

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SPECIFIC DATES    1767 (reset 1902)    ~~BUILDING ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 SURVEYORS

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 121(125) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 121(125) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Cherry Run (Maryland-West Virginia-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5  
minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 75131, northing 440082

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

5/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

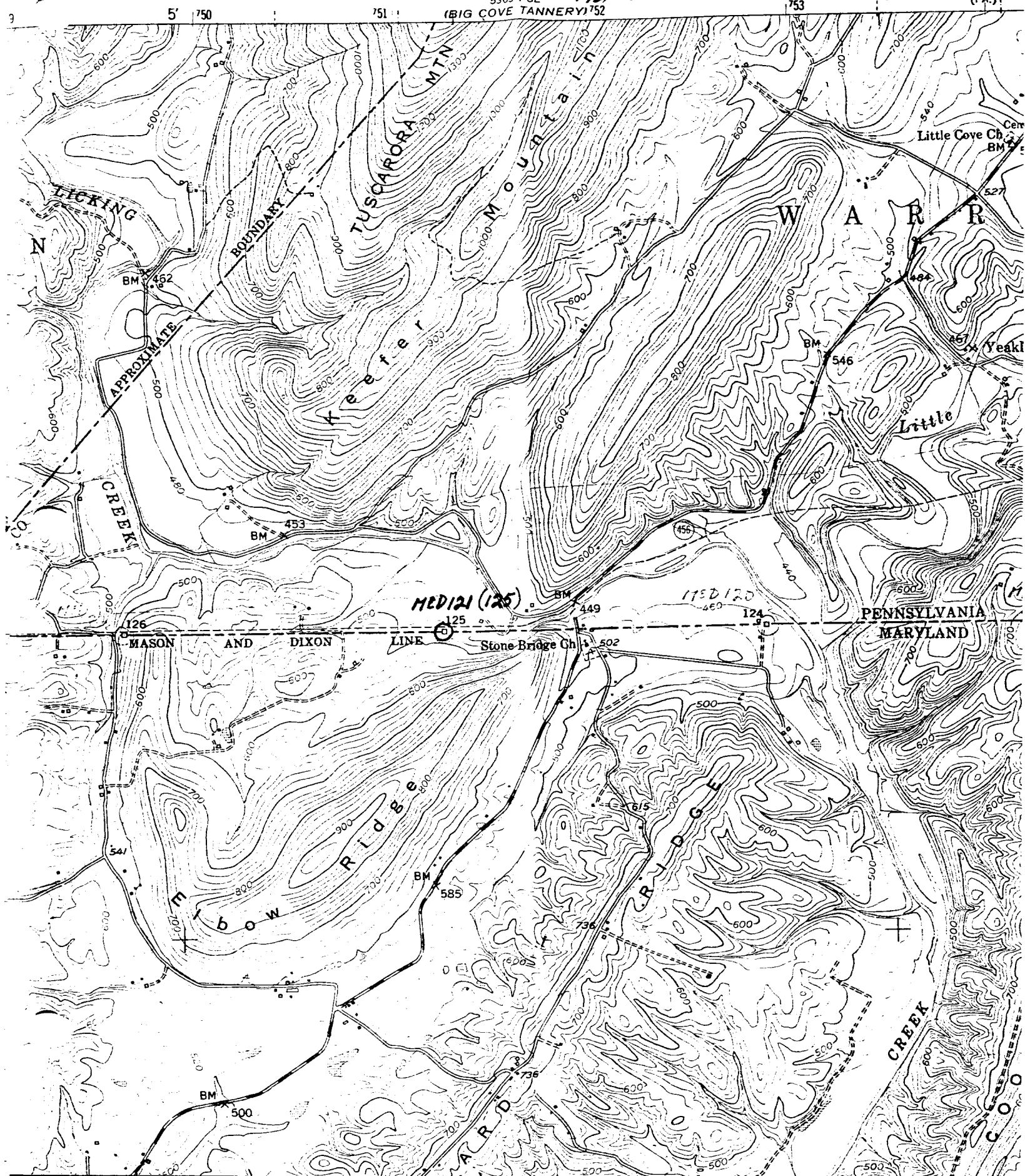
Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 121 (125)  
 CHERRY RUN QUADRANGLE  
 HADYLAND - WEST VIRGINIA - PENNSYLVANIA  
 USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 1951 PHOTOREV. 1971 SCALE 1" = 2000' 1920 000 FEET (PA.)





1947

WA-3-241

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 121 (125)  
SW CORNER (—/M), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/29/81 28-18-6





MMH

WA-T 221

LAURENCE DIXON WEST LINE: FIRESTONE 121 (125)  
NE CORNER (-17), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO ALICE KLOTT 5/29/81 (MTH. P. 3)